

BRITISH PAIR GO 2009

The Art of Pair Go

The 19th Pair Go Championships were held on 7th June, at the now regular venue of the Foxcombe Lodge Hotel at Boars Hill near Oxford. Again the hotel made the players very welcome and put on yet another huge and very tasty buffet at lunch time. The weather was a little showery, but there was still a chance to go outside in the garden for the group photo, at least.



Last year's winners Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen beat Natasha Regan and Matthew Cocke, and then Jenny Radcliffe and Francis Roads in the final, to take the championship for the 13th time. The most existing game was when Natasha and Matthew nearly lost a big fight against the pair ranked eighth.

In the 8-pair handicap group the winners were father and daughter Paul and Kelda Smith from Cambridge. Kelda, aged 6, is the youngest ever champion.

Best Dressed Pair was top-hatted Natasha Regan and Matthew Cocke.

Sue Paterson and Granville Wright won the Art Quiz, matching pairs of paintings and their artists, with 26/40.

The Furthest Travel Prize went to Casey Alexander from Denver, USA, who was playing with Nicola Hurden from Bracknell.

More photos are available on the BGA web site.

Full results follow:

Main Tournament

No	Names	1	2	3	Wins
1	Kirsty Healey & Matthew Macfadyen	5+	3+	2+	3
2	Jenny Radcliffe & Francis Roads	6+	4+	1-	2
3	Natasha Regan & Matthew Cocke	8+	1-	5+	2
4	Alison Bexfield & Simon Bexfield	7+	2-	6+	2
5	Dani Ward & David Ward	1-	8+	3-	1
6	Sue Paterson & Granville Wright	2-	7+	4-	1
7	Helen Harvey & Martin Harvey	4-	6-	8+	1
8	Anna Griffiths & Tony Atkins	3-	5-	7-	0

Handicap Tournament

No	Names	Grade	1	2	3	Wins
1	Kelda Smith & Paul Smith	17k	6+	3+	2+	3
2	Nicola Hurden & Casey Alexander	11k	7+	5+	1-	2
3	Jenny Adcock & Gareth Davies	11.5k	8+	1-	5+	2
4	Pauline Bailey & Steve Bailey	8.5k	5-	7+	6+	2
5	Roella Smith & Graham Phillips	11k	4+	2-	3-	1
6	Sam MacCarthy & John Collins	17k	1-	8+	4-	1
7	Jackie Chai & John Johnstone	6.5k	2-	4-	8+	1
8	Isabel Ridley & Pat Ridley	16k	3-	6-	7-	0

Grades are shown to indicate which sides received handicaps.



Final game action: Kirsty and Matthew (left) against Jenny and Francis



Art experts: Sue and Granville



Handicap Winners Kelda and Paul, and Best Dressed Matt and Natasha, with Francis

Other Pair Go News

British Champions Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen represented the UK in the Pair Go at the first **World Mind Sports Championships**. These were held in Beijing in October 2008. The event counted as the 19th International Amateur Pair Go Championships. Matthew and Kirsty won their first game against the pair from Argentina, and beat Finland in the second. They were in the toughest of the four groups, with Korea, North Korea and Russia, and as the groups were all-play-all, they would have to work hard to get through to the knockout. They beat Italy but lost to both Koreas and also to Russia. They finally beat Belarus to end the group fourth with 4/7.



Dressed for a wedding? Matthew and Kirsty at the WMSG

20 pairs from 12 countries took part in the **European Pair Go Championships** held in Prague. Winners on 6/6 were Russians Natalia Kovaleva and Dmitrij Surin. This was the fourth win in row for Natalia and the third for Dmitrij. Second on 5/6, were Jitka Bartova and Jan Hora from Czechia. Again, unfortunately, no UK pair was able to take part.

At the **London Open**, at the New Year, day 2 evening was the Pair Go with 10 pairs. The winners were Guo Juan and Ian Davis. Scoring 3/4 were Martha McGill and Matt Crosby, and Annika Piironen and Antti Holappa.

Our thanks go to the Japanese Pair Go Association, British Go Association, British Pair Go Promotion Partners, Foxcombe Lodge Hotel, Francis Roads and Tony Atkins (editor).